APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/782,220	02/14/2001	Hideki Akiyama	24526	9695

20529 7590 03/13/2007	EXAMINER	
NATH & ASSOCIATES	PHAM, THIERRY L	
112 South West Street		
Alexandria, VA 22314	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	2625	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/13/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/782,220	AKIYAMA, HIDEKI
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thierry L. Pham	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>1/9/07.</u>.
2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-3</u> is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-3</u> is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

● This action is responsive to the following communication: Response to Non-Final Office Action filed on 1/9/07.

● Claims 1-3 are pending, wherein claim 3 is newly added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art, and Kurachi (U.S. 6181436), and further in view of Okuda et al (US 5671669).

Regarding claims 1-2, applicant admitted the prior art teaches a printer driver (fig. 1), provided at a host computer (host computer, page 2, lines 1-20) while said host computer is connected to a stencil printer (stencil printer, page 2, lines 1-20) printing machine through communications (communication between host computer and stencil printer, page 2, lines 1-20), for setting items of various conditions for said stencil printing machine, wherein the various setting items (setting items, page 2, lines 2-5) for said printing conditions are displayed (fig. 1); a watermark (watermark settings, fig. 1) print item is selected on the setting items; and information on the items are transmitted, together with the print data (watermark settings and print data are transmitted to stencil printer, page 2, lines 2-20), to the stencil printing machine (applicant admitted the prior art teaches a stencil printer having "secret operation settings button" as show in fig. 1, page 2, lines 1-20).

Applicant's admitted prior art does not teach printer's features such as "secret operation settings" can be incorporated into the printer driver (which allows operator to control printer's features via from a host computer) and if the printer driver determines that a watermark print is

selected on the setting items, the printer driver automatically selects secret operation item and a number of copies to be printed.

Kurachi, in the same field of endeavor for printer driver, teaches a printer driver (printer driver, col. 7, lines 59-60) having "secret operation settings" (secret operation settings, col. 5, lines 4-10, col. 13, lines 55-62, col. 17, lines 8-25, and col. 26, lines 35-46) can be incorporated into the printer driver and if the printer driver determines that a watermark print (watermark print is widely known and available in the art) is selected on the setting items, the printer driver automatically selects secret operation item (setting defaults for automatically selecting certain features/functions are well known and widely available in the art, for example, printer driver as taught by Kurahi can be modified to automatically set secret operation settings upon selection of watermark settings) and a number of copies to be printed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify applicant's admitted prior art printer driver as per teachings of Kurachi by incorporating "secret operation features" onto printer driver because of a following reason and if the printer driver determines that a watermark print (watermark print is widely known and available in the art) is selected on the setting items, the printer driver automatically selects secret operation item: (●) to allow operators/users to control printer's capabilities/features of the printer remotely; therefore, reduces operating costs; (●) security/confidential of print data can be secured from intruders (Kurachi, col. 6, lines 29-30); (●) automatically defaults certain features/functions of printer driver helps reduce/prevent operators/users' errors.

However, combinations of applicant's admitted prior art and Kurachi fail to teach and/or suggest removing a used stencil sheet from a print drum and dispose of said used stencil sheet after print job has been printed.

Okuda, in the same field of endeavor for stencil printing, teaches a well-known example of removing a used stencil sheet from a print drum and dispose of said used stencil sheet after print job has been printed (col. 2, lines 15-40 and col. 3, lines 42-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify conventional stencil printing device to include a stencil discharge section for removing the used stencil sheet from the printing drum after printing (see abstract) as taught

by Okuda to prevent unauthorized users from viewing confidential data by removing the used stencil sheet from the print drum after printing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine applicant's admitted art and Kurachi with Okuda to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1-3.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/9/07 (see pages 5-10) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

• Regarding claims 1-2, the applicant argued the cited prior arts of record fail to teach and/or suggest a printer driver "for setting a number of copies to be printed".

In response, Kurachi discloses a well-known printer driver (col. 12, lines 50-51) for selecting and controlling print job conditions (e.g. print media size, print media type, secret operation, resolution, and etc.). Each printer driver is well known to include "number of copies" parameter for setting a number of copies to be printed. If one of ordinary skill in the art would like to print a document from an application, simply select "file" then "print", an option for "number of copies" is appeared. In other words, "number of copies" to be printed is well known and widely used in art (e.g. printing).

• Regarding claims 1-2, the applicant argued the cited prior arts of record fail to teach and/or suggest a printer driver having a secret keeping operating instructing said stencil printing machine to remove a used stencil sheet from a print drum and dispose of said used stencil after a selected number of copies have been printed".

In response, the Examiner has carefully reviewed the original filed specification and locate sections where it teach an example of removing a used stencil sheet from a print drum after printing has been completed, see below for details.

When the stencil making operation is finished (in S11), information on the number of printed copies is obtained from the print data (in S12) and then printing is started to print as many as sheets as the information (in S13). The stencil sheet made is attached to a print drum, print sheets are fed while rotating the print drum and a print data image is formed on the respective printing sheets. During the printing, the stencil printing machine 1 executes "watermark print" based on the print data.

When the printing of the number of copies to be printed is finished ("YES" in S14), the secret operation is started (in S15). Namely, soon after the completion of printing, the used stencil sheet is removed from the print drum to make printing impossible and the removed stencil sheet is disposed of in a stencil disposal box. When the secret operation is finished (in S16), a secret printing operation based on the print data is finished and printing operation returns to a normal printing state.

The following sections of the cited prior art (US 5671669 to Okuda et al) teach an example of removing used stencil sheet after printing has been completed.

[57]   **ABSTRACT**

A stencil printing machine having a stencil sheet composed of a resin film and a substrate and curled in one direction is formed of a perforating section for perforating the stencil sheet; a printing drum wrapped around with the stencil sheet perforated at the perforating section, and driven to rotate about the axis thereof; a conveying device for conveying the stencil sheet to the printing drum in such a manner that an edge of the stencil sheet perforated at the perforating section is substantially in parallel with one linear line of the printing drum; a clamp device for clamping the edge of the stencil sheet conveyed by the conveying device to the printing drum, on the printing drum along one linear line of the printing drum; and a stencil discharge section for removing the stencil sheet from the printing drum after printing.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The stencil printing machine according to the first aspect of the present invention comprises a stencil sheet composed of a resin film and a substrate and curled in a specific direction; a perforating section for perforating the stencil sheet; a printing drum wrapped with the stencil sheet perforated at the perforating section, and driven to rotate about the axis of itself; a conveying means for carrying the stencil sheet to the printing drum in such a manner that the edge in the specific direction of the stencil sheet perforated at the perforating section will be substantially parallel to one linear line on the printing drum; a clamp means for fastening, along the one linear line on the printing drum, the edge of the stencil sheet that has been carried by the conveying means to the printing drum; and the stencil sheet discharge section for removing the stencil sheet from the printing drum after completion of printing.

> A stencil discharge section 27 disposed near the printing
> drum 9 has a stencil discharge roller 27a which strips the
> used stencil sheet S from the outer peripheral surface of the
> printing drum 9 while holding one end thereof, and a
> box-shaped storing section 27b for storing the stencil sheet
> S removed from the stencil discharge roller 27a.

First of all, printer driver for controlling the remote printer is known and wherein watermark settings is also known and taught by Kurachi. Okuda explicitly teaches a well-known example of a stencil discharge section 27 for automatically removing a *used stencil sheet from the printing drum after completion of printing* and wherein these cited sample sections (as shown above) teach an example of "soon after the completion of printing, the *used stencil is removed from the print drum* to make printing impossible and the removed stencil sheet is disposed of in a stencil disposal box", which disclosed by applicant disclosure (see above for details) and claims 1-2. Used stencil sheet as taught by Okuda is automatically removed by the printer (e.g. stencil discharge section 27) after completion of printing, therefore, additional security is enhanced; for example, it prevents unauthorized users from making additional prints using the used stencil sheet that contains confidential materials. Moreover, features (automatically removing used stencil sheet) as taught by Okuda also protects users/operators who forget to set the "secret operation" that instructs the printing to remove the used stencil sheet after completion of printing.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(●) US 6301013 to Momose et al, teaches an example of watermark print and "number of copies" via printer driver (figs. 6-11).

(●) US 6621590 to Livingston, teaches an example of watermark print via printer driver (figs. 3-5) with print default settings, for example, a default message such as "secret", shown in fig. 5 is incorporated into document 11 when a "print watermarks" box is checked (fig. 3a).

(●) US 5704021 to Smith et al, teaches an example of printer driver wherein certain features are defaulted based upon selected printing conditions (i.e. error-diffusion halftoning technique 22 is automatically selected whenever a high resolution mode is selected, col. 6, lines 15-22 and col. 9, lines 29-56).

(●) US 6396594 to French et al, teaches an example of printer driver with watermark and "number of copies" (fig. 4).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).
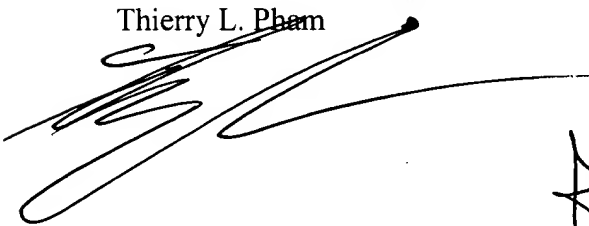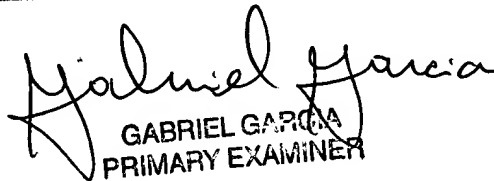
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER